



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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THE ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED ACCREDITATION STATUS

ROCKFORD, IL- The Rockford Fire Department was unanimously awarded Accredited Agency Status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) at the Center for Public Safety Excellence hearings in Atlanta, Georgia on August 24, 2011. The Rockford Fire Department is one of only 148 agencies worldwide to obtain CFAI Accredited Agency Status.

Chief Bergsten reports that this accomplishment culminates a four-year, department wide effort. Bergsten says "The entire Rockford Fire Department has played a vital role in achieving this prestigious award and demonstrates the City's commitment to provide progressive, high quality emergency services to our community." The Department wishes to recognize the many individuals that participated in various roles and especially District Chief Steve Preiss, Captain Michele Pankow and Statistical Analyst Elizabeth Russell for their dedication and commitment to this important project.

Though it has taken many years to achieve accreditation, the work continues now that accredited status has been reached. The Fire Department must continually evaluate and improve the processes being used to deliver programs and services to the community. To maintain accredited agency status an Annual Compliance Report is submitted to CFAI. It is imperative that the Department's Strategic Plan and Standard of Cover document remain current. An accreditation working group has been established with the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating Fire Department activities.

The CFAI is dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary and provides an agency with an

improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally and then with a team of peer members from other agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment.

The Mayor and City Council will recognize Department personnel Tuesday, September 6, 2011 during the City Council Meeting at Rockford City Hall, 425 East State Street, Rockford.



From right to left – District Chief Lynn Washburn-Livingston, Captain Michele Pankow, Fire Chief Derek Bergsten, Battalion Chief Mike Scott from Kent County Fire Authority, Kent Washington, Division Chief Jim Strey and Division Chief Matthew Knott. Photo submitted by Steve Olson.

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